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# BATMAN

## DETECTIVE COMICS

CATAclysm

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DIXON  
NOLAN &  
JANSON





A full-page comic book illustration. Batman stands on the left, looking towards the right. Robin is crouched on the roof in the center, looking up at Batman. A large, complex mechanical structure, possibly a giant robot or a piece of machinery, dominates the background. It has a blue and grey color scheme with orange highlights. The scene is set at night, with a dark blue sky and some orange light sources, possibly fires or explosions, visible in the distance. The overall tone is dramatic and action-oriented.

IT'S EVEN  
WORSE THAN  
I THOUGHT.

BATMAN...  
WE'RE UP TO  
THIS, RIGHT?

WE  
HAVE TO  
BE, DICK.

# SHIFTING GROUND

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A TIME WARNER  
ENTERTAINMENT  
COMPANY







MASS GRAVES--  
BURNING THE BODIES  
TO PREVENT  
DISEASE.

THIS IS  
A NIGHTMARE,  
BRUCE.

GOTHAM  
NEEDS US NOW  
MORE THAN  
EVER.

OKAY--  
SO WHERE  
DO WE  
START?

WE DO  
WHAT WE  
CAN FOR  
THE LOST  
AND THE  
WOUNDED  
AND THE  
TRAPPED

AND  
WHEN ROBIN  
HAS A LEAD  
FOR US--

"-- WE HUNT DOWN THIS  
QUAKE MASTER."

QUAIL IN  
FRONT OF  
ME!

I WILL  
SHARE YOUR  
CITY TO ITS  
KNEES!

I WILL  
LEAVE NOT ONE  
STONE UPON  
ANOTHER!



GOTHAM WILL EXIST  
AS A WASTELAND WITH  
NOTHING TO MARK ITS  
PLACE EXCEPT  
GRAVES!



GIVE  
IT A  
REST.

HUH?

I MEAN, DO  
YOU EXPECT ANYONE  
TO BUY THAT  
ACT?

YOU ARE  
NOT CONVINCED,  
DR. RELAZIO?

HA!

COME ON! THE MASK? THE  
DARTH VADER BIT? ALL THAT  
"PREPARE TO DIE"  
NOISE?

BESIDES, YOU  
AND I BOTH KNOW  
YOU HAD NOTHING TO  
DO WITH THE RECENT  
QUAKE.

HOWEVER, I HOLD  
YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS,  
DR. RELAZIO.

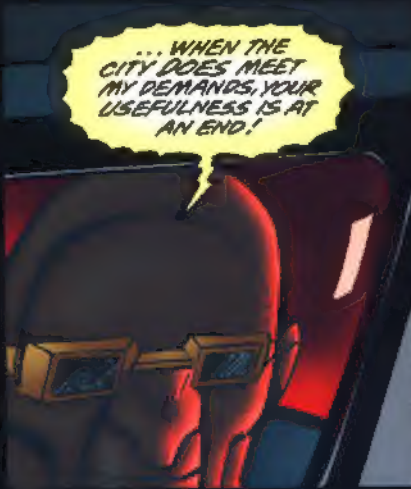
MM.

SO DO  
NOT MOCK ME  
FURTHER!


LET'S NOT FORGET WHO'S  
GIVING YOU YOUR SEISMOLOGY  
BUZZWORDS SO THE CITY  
THINKS YOU'RE THE BIG  
FAT EXPERT.

AND HOW  
'BOUT SOME  
REAL MILK FOR THE  
COFFEE? THIS NON-  
DAIRY STUFF IS  
YUCKY.

MAKE YOUR  
JOKES NOW,  
DOCTOR...



... WHEN THE  
CITY DOES MEET  
MY DEMANDS, YOUR  
USEFULNESS IS AT  
AN END!



YOU GOT  
A POINT,  
SACKHEAD.

LET'S HOPE  
THERE'S BETTER  
MINDS THAN  
YOURS AT WORK  
OUT THERE.



SOMETHING'S  
NOT RIGHT  
HERE.

YOU CARE  
TO SHARE THAT  
WITH US, YOUNG  
SIR?

I'VE WATCHED  
THE QUAKE/MASTER'S  
RANDOM DEMANDS  
A HUNDRED TIMES.

HIS  
PHRASING  
IS WEIRD.

THE  
RAVINGS OF A  
LUNATIC OFTEN  
ARE.





WE KNOW HE DIDN'T CAUSE THE EARTHQUAKE. AND THE TERMS HE USES ARE ALL SECONDHAND.

THANKS TO DR. RELAZZO'S FEEDING HIM BOGUS INFORMATION.

THIS GUY'S A PLAIN VANILLA WACKO AND A STRAID ONE AT THAT.



BUT IT'S NOT JUST WHAT HE SAYS-- IT'S HOW HE SAYS IT.

HIS CHOICE OF WORDS IS ODD.

AS I STATED EARLIER, THE QUAKE MASTER IS DERANGED.

I GUESS.



I JUST FEEL DUMB SITTING HERE RUNNING HUNCHES WHILE BRUCE AND DICK ARE IN THE CITY.



THEY GET TO BUST HEADS AND I SIT HERE LIKE A COUCH POTATO.

THEY ALSO SERVE...

I'VE HEARD IT.



"AND I'D STILL LIKE TO BE WHERE THE ACTION IS."

THIS WAY. I THINK WE CAN GET IN.

YOU SURE YOU REMEMBER THIS RIGHT?

THIS MUCH CASH I CAN'T FORGET.

THIS GUY MOVES  
A LOT OF DRUGS. I  
SOLD HIM SOME  
STOLEN GOODS  
ONCE.

HE PAID  
ME OUTTA A  
SAFE HE  
HAD DOWN  
HERE.

HELP...  
HELP  
US...

HUH?

MY WIFE AND  
CHILDREN ARE TRAPPED  
IN THE BASEMENT  
HERE.

IT IS FILLING  
WITH WATER...

HOLD  
ON.

HEY, THERE'S SOME  
PEOPLE TRAPPED  
HERE IN THE  
WRECKAGE.  
MAYBE WE  
COULD USE  
THE WELDER  
TO--

YEAH, RIGHT-- I  
GOT MY OWN PROBLEMS.  
LEND A HAND  
HERE.

WHAN?

UNSH!

UH!





IS THERE  
ANYTHING LOWER  
THAN SCUM LIKE  
YOU?

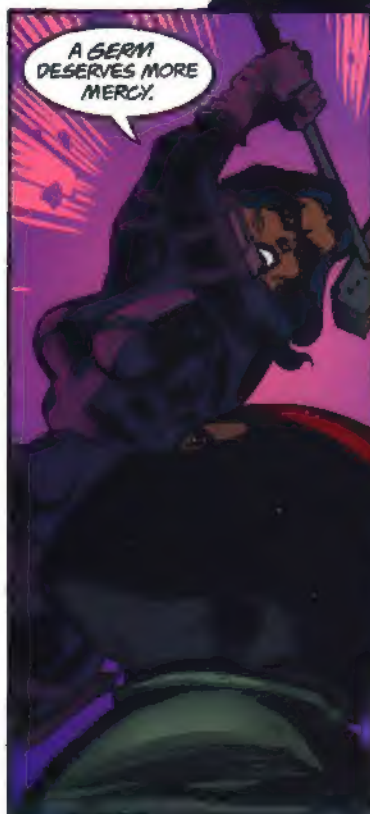
UNNNH...

WORSE  
THAN GRAVE-  
ROBBERS.

MUFFF!

A MAGGOT  
DESERVES MORE  
RESPECT.

GURUH!



A GERM  
DESERVES MORE  
MERCY.



THAT'S  
ENOUGH,  
HUNTRESS.

YOU...






THE  
BIG BAD  
BOY  
SCOUT.


I CAN HARDLY  
BELIEVE YOU'RE  
TALKING TO  
ME.

YOU'RE  
TIRED,  
HUNTRESS.  
TIRED AND  
HURT.




I DON'T NEED YOU  
TO MAKE EXCUSES  
FOR ME.

I'M ANGRY,  
BATMAN. A LITTLE  
RIGHTEOUS  
OUTRAGE.



I WON'T LET YOU CRIPPLE THIS  
MAN. NO MATTER WHAT  
HE'S DONE.



NOT IN MY  
TOWN.

LOOK AROUND  
YOU. THERE'S NOT  
MUCH OF "YOUR"  
TOWN LEFT THESE  
DAYS.

MAYBE YOU  
AND GOTHAM ARE  
OVER.

BATMAN!  
OVER  
HERE!

ACTUALLY,  
I WAS GOING  
TO KILL  
HIM.

HEY!





SOME  
PEOPLE TRAPPED  
BELOW. AND THE  
WATER LEVEL IS  
RISING.

AND  
YOU WANTED  
TO GO EASY  
ON THE CREEPS.



THEY WOULD  
HAVE LET THOSE  
PEOPLE DIE.

THIS  
HAS OPENED  
MY EYES,  
BATMAN.

I DON'T THINK  
I WANT TO BE PART  
OF YOUR HAPPY  
LITTLE FAMILY.

NOT IF THE RULES  
MEAN LETTING MURDERING  
TRASH LIKE THIS WALK  
THE STREETS.



THIS CAN  
WAIT,  
HUNTRESS.

GRAB A  
PRY ROD.

WE'LL SEE IF  
WE CAN CUT  
THROUGH THIS  
REBAR.



STAY BACK,  
FOLKS.

WE'LL  
HAVE YOU OUT  
OF THERE IN  
A MINUTE.





THE  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICES  
RESPONDED  
TO OUR  
CALL.

WHERE  
TO NEXT?

I THINK  
YOU NEED SOME  
DOWNTIME,  
HUNTRESS.



YOU'RE TELLING ME  
TO GO HOME?

LOOK AT  
YOU. WOUNDED.  
EXHAUSTED.

HAVE YOU  
HAD ANY REST  
SINCE THIS  
STARTED?



YOU THINK A LITTLE  
LIE-DOWN AND I'LL GO  
BACK ON THE "BATMAN  
PROGRAM"?

YOU COULDN'T  
HAVE IT MORE  
WRONG.

THE LOWLIFES IN  
THIS TOWN BETTER HUNT  
FOR COVER.



THERE'S A REAL CRIMEFIGHTER  
ON THE STREETS AGAIN.

HOLD  
ON--

DON'T  
BOTHER.



WE DON'T  
HAVE TIME FOR  
THE HUNTRESS.

NOT  
NOW.



THE CITY CHEATED  
ME OF MY RANSOM!

HOWEVER,  
THEY WILL NOT  
DO SO THIS  
TIME!

THIS TIME WE  
GO RIGHT TO THE  
SOURCE.

AND  
THEY WILL  
PAY!

WHAT'S  
UP WITH THE TEE-  
VEE? WHERE  
ARE YOU?

ALL IN DUE  
TIME. FOR NOW  
MY IDENTITY  
MUST REMAIN  
CONCEALED.

I NEED YOUR TALENTS...  
YOUR MUSCLE TO COLLECT  
MY MONEY DIRECTLY  
FROM THE CITY!

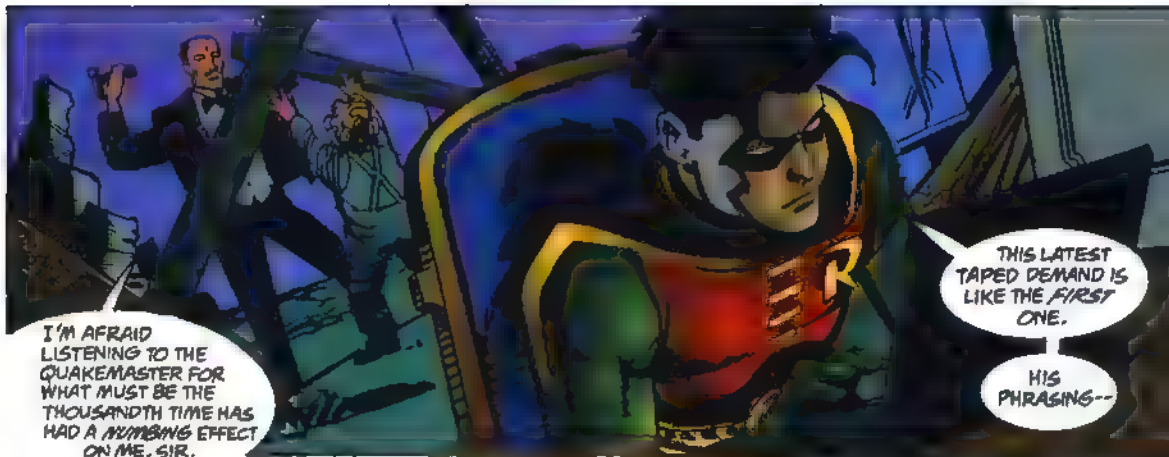
I'M TAKING NO  
CHANCES THAT THE...  
THAT ANY VIGILANTES  
WILL INTERFERE.

-- ONE HUNDRED  
MILLION DOLLARS IN  
UNMARKED CURRENCY --

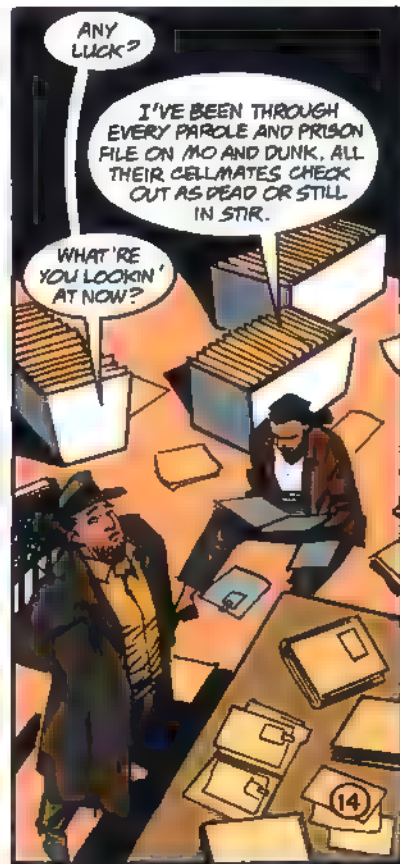
HOLD THE RANSOM AT  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS UNTIL  
YOU HEAR FROM ME AGAIN.  
MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO  
MOVE THE CASH... PRIOR  
TO THAT.

SEE?  
RIGHT THERE  
IS WHAT I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT.













WHEN HE'S ABOUT TO USE THE WORD "BILLS" HE SAYS "CURRENCY" INSTEAD.

AND THEN HE SAYS "PRIOR" IN PLACE OF "BEFORE."



AW NO!

THAT'S IT! WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT?

ANOTHER HUNCH, SIR?

WAY BETTER THAN THAT.



I MAY HAVE OUR ANSWER.

IN A BOOK, MAC?

A CITY ATLAS. AN OLD ONE.



RUNNING NORTH TO SOUTH FROM CHELSEA TO VICTORIA PARK. IT'S NOT A FAULT, IT'S A CANAL.

THE DEVILLE-BREMEN CANAL. THAT WAS FILLED IN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

HEY...



THE CANAL WOULD CROSS THE SPILLKIN-CHALFONT FAULT HERE.

SHELDON PARK NEAR THE OLD TROLLEY BARN.



THAT MIGHT BE WORTH--

--CHECKING OUT.



ARREST  
REPORTS AND  
DAILY ROSTERS  
FOR THE COUNTY  
HOLDING PENS.

TO SEE IF  
THEY EVEN  
BRUSHED AGAINST  
SOMEONE WHO  
COULD PULL OFF  
THIS QUAKE-  
MASTER  
SCAM.



WAIT.



GOT SOMETHING?


LOOK WHO THE  
TWO OF THEM SPENT  
A WEEK IN LOCK-  
DOWN WITH.

THEY WERE  
ALL AWAITING TRIAL  
ON SEPARATE  
BEFS.



YEAH.

YEEEEEEAAH...



THERE'S  
GOING TO BE DELAYS  
GETTING MIDTOWN  
BACK ON LINE.

IT'S THE  
GOVERNOR, MS  
MAYOR. HE WANTS  
A PROGRESS  
REPORT.

THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
FLYING IN  
TOMORROW.  
CAN WE PRO-  
VIDE POLICE  
ESCORT?

MS MAYOR?  
ARE YOU  
LISTENING?





I AM LISTENING!

I HAVE A CITY IN RUINS.

NO WATER OR POWER OR PHONES.



AND THAT GENERATOR IS GIVING ME A MIGRAINE!

ARE YOU WEARING A GUN, JIM? I WANT YOU TO SHOOT THAT DAMN THING.

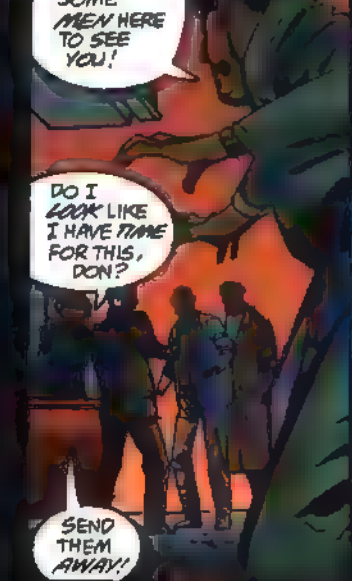
NO PROBABLE CAUSE, MAYOR GRANGE.



YOU'RE NOT HERE WITH ANOTHER PROBLEM, ARE YOU, JIM?



YOU WANTED MY ESTIMATE FOR HOW MUCH LONGER WE'LL NEED THE NATIONAL GUARD IN GOTHAM.



MAYOR GRANGE, THERE ARE SOME MEN HERE TO SEE YOU!

DO I LOOK LIKE I HAVE TIME FOR THIS, DON?

SEND THEM AWAY!



THEY'RE VERY... INSISTENT!



WHERE'S THE PAYOFF, MAYOR?

ONE HUNDRED MILLION BUCKS, WE'RE HERE TO COLLECT.









BATMAN--  
ARE YOU READ-  
ING ME?

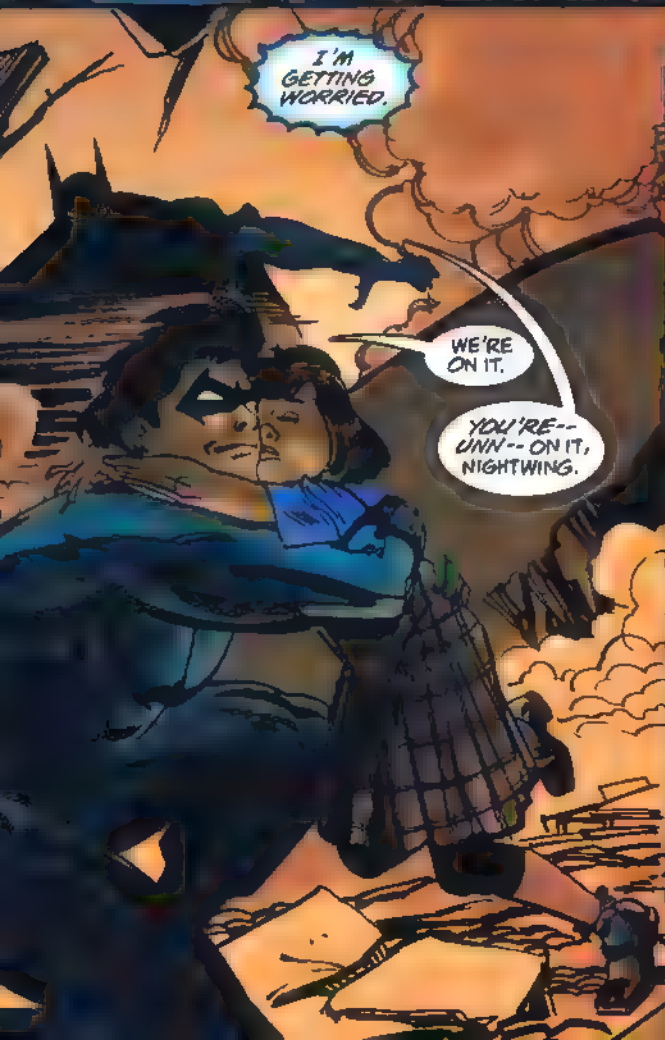
IN--A--  
MINUTE--  
ORACLE!

THIS IS KIND  
OF IMPORTANT,  
GUYS.



MY DAD WENT  
TO SEE THE MAYOR  
AND HE'S BEEN  
GONE FOR HOURS.

AND I  
CAN'T GET  
THROUGH TO  
CITY HALL AT  
ALL.



I'M  
GETTING  
WORRIED.

WE'RE  
ON IT.

YOU'RE--  
UNN-- ON IT,  
NIGHTWING.




I CAN'T SPARE THE TIME  
AWAY FROM HERE. THERE'RE  
TOO MANY LIVES AT STAKE  
HERE TO TRADE FOR  
ONE.

EVEN  
JAMES  
GORDON.

I... I  
UNDER-  
STAND.





YOU'LL  
SEE! I WILL  
TRIUMPH!

GOTHAM  
WILL FEAR  
ME!


THE QUAKEMASTER  
WILL HAVE THE LAST  
LAUGH!

AND IF  
THEY WON'T  
PAY FOR THE  
LIFE OF THEIR  
MAYOR...

WELL...I'VE TAKEN OUT  
SOME MORE INSURANCE,  
YOU SEE.

ALL RIGHT, "QUAKEMASTER"!  
THE SHOW'S OVER!

NO!  
DON'T STEP  
ANY CLOSER!



LISTEN  
TO THE...YOUNG  
MAN, OFFICERS.

EVEN WITH  
ALL THE DEAD  
CRUSHED UNDER  
THE RUINS OF  
THIS CITY--

--IT WOULD  
BE A PITY TO ADD  
ONE MORE.

**TO BE CONCLUDED!**

THE CATHOLYST  
CONTINUES IN  
CATWOMAN #57



# Detective Comments

Dear Detective  
Comments,  
Gearhead's more  
machine than man.  
That's cool.

**CINDY PARRISH**  
NEWTON,  
CONNECTICUT

*Easy for you to say.*

Dear Batcave  
Detectives,

I had thought that Gearhead was going to rewire the Batmobile with his cybernetic circuits and attempt to use it to kill Batman. At least, that's what *Previews* led me to believe. Nevertheless, this two-part story was a good development for Nathan Finch. His forethought and planning, his icy determination, and his monstrous transformations have already boosted him

out of the minor leagues of villainy. While he is not yet a Joker- or Bane-level villain, he is clearly on the way up. I hope his next appearance will complete the tale of his origin.

Score one for the Batmobile, as well. I had no idea it was so intelligent. Perhaps next we can see some more of Batman's other tools, like whatever populates his utility belt these days.

Naughty naughty, putting Robin on the cover when he's not in the comic. He's still chasing Dava around Europe. Don't raise my hopes like that. Alfred filled in well for the Boy Wonder this issue, though, running to Batman's rescue. Now if only the Birds of Prey would put in an appearance...

**JAY MCINTYRE**  
DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

*Now that the Birds will be appearing on the stands a bit more frequently, they might just pop in here now and again, although it's equally likely you'll see some of Gotham's denizens hanging out with them.*

Dear Detectives,

Obviously, the real star of *DETECTIVE COMICS* #718 was the Batmobile. I'm

curious: Has there ever been a Bat-story that focused so much on the Caped Crusader's wheels? I can't recall one.

**J. HURLEY**  
TUCSON, ARIZONA

Hey, Detectives,

At first I thought Gearhead was cool, but now he is getting tiresome and boring. I like the fact that he constantly evades capture. That would be better with a more deserving villain such as the Joker, Poison Ivy or Two-Face. If you bring Gearhead back, have Batman dismantle him so he can never come back. Gearhead would be a better challenge for Spoiler.

The one good part of the story was Alfred leaving the mansion. Alfred is part of the Bat team, and I would like to see him play a more active role in the team. In the meantime bring back Harold; he has totally disappeared.

**DOUD OHMER**  
COVINGTON, KENTUCKY

To Whom It May Concern,

An avid reader of all Batman titles in the past, I had to stop collecting comics

about a year ago due to financial concerns (poor college student). However, I'm back in the comic stores now, and with a nagging question. When I stopped collecting comics, it seemed as though the *BATMAN* and *ROBIN* titles had been set aside to focus on solo adventures for those particular characters, but *DETECTIVE COMICS* featured them working together, which I loved. Now, from what I've seen, *DETECTIVE COMICS* has become another Batman solo book. Is this the case, and if so, when can we begin expecting *Batman/Robin* team-ups again?

Thanks for your help,

**JENNIFER STEVENS**  
TALLORIES@AOL.COM

*While not absolutely every issue of *DETECTIVE* will have Robin in it, by no means is the title a solo Batman book; my extremely unscientific study has confirmed what I suspected without ever actually checking it out: *Tec* probably has more Batman and Robin team-ups than all the other Batman books combined. In fact, from *DETECTIVE* #700 through *DETECTIVE* #722, there are only five issues that *don't* have Robin in them. Not a bad average overall, eh wot?*

## NEXT ISSUE:



The Cataclysm may be over, but the Aftershock begins. It's in *DETECTIVE COMICS* #722, "Statistics," by Chuck Dixon, Jim Aparo, James Hodgkins, Gloria Vasquez and John Costanza. See you then.

—Scott Peterson  
swimmin' in muddy waters

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ARE YOU DOWN WITH...



YEAH,  
YOU KNOW ME!



BUT JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T YET...

**GCPD GUY**